

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application.

Formal Drawings

In the Office Action, formal drawings were required. Formal drawings are filed herewith.

Claim 11 Objection

Claim 11 was objected to because of a noted typographical informality. Claim 11 has been carefully reviewed and is amended appropriately herein. It is respectfully requested that the objection now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 over Admitted Prior Art and Brodeur

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Admitted Prior Art (Admission) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,525,434 to Brodeur ("Brodeur"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1-12 recite an INTEGRATED CIRCUIT. To emphasize this point, claims 1-12 are all amended to require an **integrated circuit power rail**.

The Examiner cites Fig. 5 of the Admitted Art, which discloses an Integrated Circuit with conventional power management of a regulating a power rail common to a plurality of devices. The Examiner agrees that the Admitted Art "fails to teach a plurality of voltage regulators and voltage meters, the inner workings of the first integrated voltage regulator, and a control system." Office Action at 3. However, to cure this serious deficiency the Examiner cites Brodeur for allegedly teaching "the inner workings of a first voltage regulator (31-34, 42), . . . a plurality of voltage regulators (35-38) and voltage meters (nodes closest to Vout, connected to 38), each being associated with a different section (with a different Vout), and all sections hav[ing] a voltage meter." (Office Action at 3)

Brodeur discloses a switching circuit useful in forming a DC converter. (See Brodeur, Abstract) Brodeur includes a TRANSFORMER 32, 33,

and clearly does NOT disclose an integrated circuit as required by ALL pending claims 1-12.

For at least this reason claims 1-12 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Moreover, claims 1-12 additionally require a POWER RAIL.

Brodeur fails to explicitly show a power rail. In particular, Brodeur only shows SIGNAL lines. For this additional reason claims 1-12 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 1-6 additionally require a **plurality of voltage meters** for measuring a plurality of voltage levels supplied respectively to each of a plurality of sections of an **INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**. Claims 7-12 require **measuring a plurality of levels of voltage** supplied to respective ones of said plurality of sections of an **INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**.

Brodeur, at best, teaches SWITCH circuits that SWITCH when a voltage level exceeds a given REFERENCE voltage VREF1, VREF2 (See Brodeur, Fig. 1). The **SWITCH** circuit taught by Brodeur is NOT a VOLTAGE METER as required by claims 1-6, or **MEASURING** a plurality of levels of **VOLTAGE** as required by claims 7-12.

For these yet ADDITIONAL reasons claims 1-12 are patentable over the prior art of record. Yet claims 1-12 even FURTHER distinguish from the Admitted Art in view of Brodeur.

In particular, claims 1-6 further recite a first integrated **voltage regulator** to supply power to a **power rail**; and claims 7-9 recite **regulating a voltage level** of power to at least one **power rail**; and claims 10-12 recite **regulating a voltage** output from a plurality of integrated voltage regulators each adapted to supply power to a respective one of a plurality of **power rails**.

As discussed herein above, Brodeur fails to teach ANYTHING about power rails, much less regulating a voltage level to power any power rail, as variously claimed by claims 1-12. These are yet more reasons why claims 1-12 are patentable over the prior art of record. Yet there is even more distinction of claims 1-12 over the prior art of record.

In particular, claims 1-6 further require that the voltage regulation of a plurality of power rails is controlled based on a measured plurality of voltage levels. Claims 7-9 require voltage regulation of a plurality of power rails based on a plurality of voltage levels of sections of an integrated circuit. Claims 10-12 recite regulating a voltage output from a plurality of integrated voltage regulators.

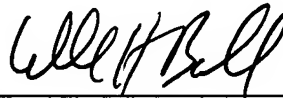
Brodeur fails to teach ANY power rails, much less regulation of a plurality of integrated circuit power rails based on a measured PLURALITY of voltage levels, as variously claimed by claims 1-12.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1-12 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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